

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 WELLIN 00610 270459Z

13-S
ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /030 W
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R 270430Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO DOD WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7703

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 0610

LIMDIS EYES ONLY

FOR RADM THOMAS BIGLEY, OASD/ISA, EAPR, PENTAGON FROM DOOLIN

DEPTO 21

EO 11652: XGDS
TAGS: OVIP (RUSH)
SUBJ: MEETING WITH MESSRS. HUMMEL AND DOOLIN

1. THIS IS A-ONE. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE (VIENTIANE 1533)
WISHES TO MEET WITH HUMMEL AND ME ON 5 MARCH IN BANGKOK
TO DISCUSS LAO SECURITY - RELATED PROBLEMS. PLEASE SEND
UPDATE OF STATE OF PLAY TO ME IN JAKARTA. ESPECIALLY
INTERESTED IN MANN (AID)- VON MARBOD SESSION.

2. RAISED SECNAV MEMO WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN THIS MORNING.
HE BELIEVES A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE OF NOTES
WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS TIME. FYI: GOA MOFA FIRST
ASST. SECRETARY PRITCHETT TOLD ME THAT DEFMIN BARNARD TOLD
PM WHITLAM OF HIS FIRM PROMISE TO US RE COCKBURN SOUND UPON
HIS RETURN TO CANBERRA. SUGGEST THIS BE PASSED TO SECNAV
BUT THAT HIS RECOMMENDATION NOT BE ACTED UPON. END FYI

3. ANZUS MEETING VERY SUCCESSFUL. JOINT COMMUNIQUE
SENT IN STATE CHANNELS.

4. AMEMB CANBERRA PROCUREMENT OFFICER, GEORGE ALDEN,
HAS LEARNED THAT AN AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE REVIEW COMITE
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UNDER DEFMIN BARNARD WILL DO A FINAL STUDY IN NEXT

FEW DAYS PRIOR TO FORMAL DECISION ON PROCUREMENT OF TANKS. ALDEN HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED INFORMALLY THAT DECISION WILL BE FOR OUR M-60. BARNARD IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THE PURCHASE OF 90 (NINETY) "COPIES" IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR A TOTAL VALUE, INCLUDING SPARES, OF PERHAPS DOLS 40 (FORTY) MILLION. ALDEN UNDERSTANDS A DECISION ON THE MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT IS ALSO IMMINENT. HE IS AGAIN VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT THE DECISION (ON PROCUREMENT BY BOTH THE CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS) WILL GO TO THE LOCKHEED CANDIDATE. THE PROBABLE PURCHASE OF TEN AIRCRAFT WILL BE WORTH DOLS 130 (ONE HUNDRED THIRTY) MILLION. FINALLY, ALDEN WAS TOLD THAT THE BARNARD PARTY WERE WELL IMPRESSED BY THEIR REVIEW OF THE U.S. PATROL FRIGATE. ALDEN EXPECTS THE AUSTRALIANS WILL PURCHASE FOUR OF THESE SHIPS FOR A TOTAL VALUE OF DOLS 300 (THREE HUNDRED) MILLION. DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY IN ORDER TO MAKE THE NEW AUSTRALIAN BUDGET CYCLE. ALDEN UNDERSTANDS FROM HIS AUSTRALIAN MOD CONTACTS THAT BARNARD HAS BECOME VERY SENSITIVE TO THE VOLUME OF CRITICISM AGAINST THIS POLICY OF ALLOWING AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE CAPABILITY TO ERODE AND WISHES TO COUNTER WITH THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

5. PLEASE PASS ABOVE TO ADM. PEET. IN TELLING ME THE FOREGOING, AMBASSADOR GREEN CAUTIONS THAT THIS INFORMATION, WHILE MOST ENCOURAGING, IS STILL NOT FINAL AND THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS. WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.
RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. KURZE S/S-O.

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NNN

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